

# **PINEDALE ANTICLINE NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Sublette County, Wyoming**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

☐ Draft

☒ Final

### **Lead Agency:**

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
State of Wyoming

### **Counties That Could Be Directly Affected:**

Sublette County, Wyoming

### **Abstract:**

Comments were received on the DEIS from a number of groups. A total of 235 comment letters were received. BLM responses to each comment letter are included in Sections 5, 6, and 7 of the FEIS. BLM held a public hearing on January 12, 2000. A total of 86 people signed in at the hearing - 17 gave statements.

The Final Environmental Impact statement (FEIS) on the proposed *Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project* is an abbreviated FEIS. The FEIS contains only minor changes/additions made in the Draft EIS (published November 26, 1999) in response to comments, consisting of technical, editorial, or non-substantive factual corrections. The FEIS and the Draft EIS (DEIS) comprise the entire document for filing purposes and for the decision making process. Refer to the DEIS for more detailed analysis and description of the proposed action and alternatives. The FEIS contains 7 Sections. Section 1, *Introduction*; Section 2, *Potential Management Scenario for Continued Exploration and Development*; Section 3, *Analysis of Revised Sales Gas Pipeline Alternatives*; Section 4, *Errata*; Section 5, *Comment Responses and Letters*; Section 6, *Responses to Environmental Group Notices and Alerts*; and Section 7, *Public Hearing Comments and Responses*. BLM has identified the Resource Protection (RP) Alternative on Federal Lands and Minerals as its preferred alternative based on information contained in the DEIS, comments received during public scoping, and comments received on the DEIS. BLM considers the RP Alternative on All Lands and Minerals to be the environmentally preferred alternative.

The *Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project* EIS analyzes a proposal by the Pinedale Anticline operators to drill new exploration and development wells in their leased acreage within the project area (approximately 197,345 acres) in western Wyoming. Lands associated with the new drilling program are located within an area from the town of Pinedale, Wyoming south (25 to 30 miles) to the Jonah Natural Gas Field, west to the Green River, and east to Wyoming Highway 191. The project area is located within Townships 29 through 33 North, Ranges 107 through 110 West, 6th Principal Meridian.

**Other Environmental Review or Consultation Requirements:**

This Draft EIS, in compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (as amended), includes the Biological Assessment for the purpose of identifying any endangered or threatened species which are likely to be affected by the proposed action.

**Lead Agency Contact:**

For further information, contact Bill McMahan at the Rock Springs Field Office, (307) 352-0224. Comments on this Draft EIS should be submitted in writing to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Bill McMahan, Project Manager  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

**Date FEIS Issued:**

Anticipated Date of EPA Notice of Availability Published in *Federal Register*: **June 2, 2000.**

Date By Which Comments Must Be Received by the BLM At the Above Address: **July 5, 2000** or 30 Days Following Publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.